



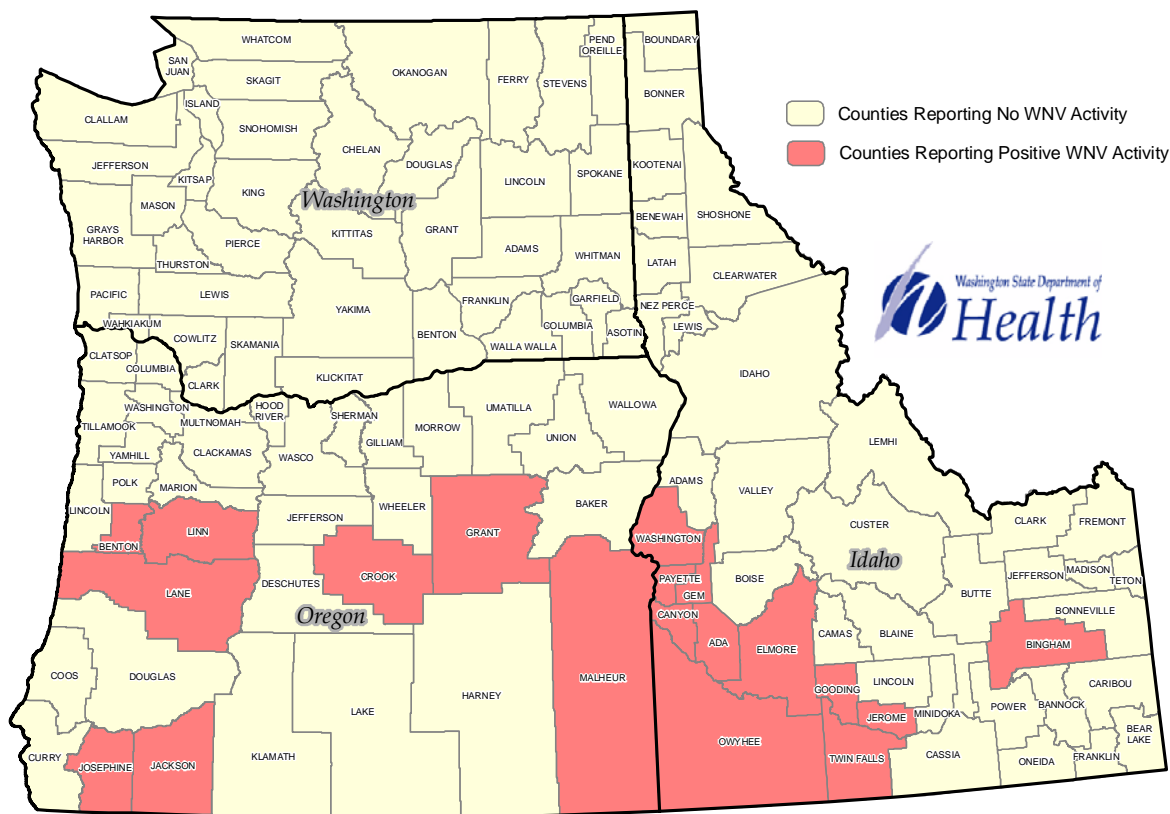
West Nile Virus Newsletter

For the third year, the Department of Health is using this electronic newsletter as a regular communication tool to help keep its partners informed about West Nile virus (WNV). The newsletter will be provided every two weeks throughout the warmer peaks of the mosquito season and less frequently during the colder, non-peak mosquito periods.

Surveillance News

2004 West Nile Virus Activity in the Northwest

As of February 16th, 2005 for Idaho and October 26, 2004 for Oregon



While Washington was fortunate to not have detected West Nile virus activity in 2004, both Idaho and Oregon identified the virus in their states. Idaho reported WNV infection in 3 humans, 22 horses, 7 birds, and 1 alpaca. Oregon reported WNV infection in 5 humans, 32 horses, and 23 birds. Our neighbors to the north in British Columbia did not report any WNV activity for 2004.

The Idaho and Oregon data cited above are referenced from the Idaho Department of Health & Welfare Web site at www.healthandwelfare.idaho.gov and the Oregon Department of Human Services Web site at www.dhs.state.or.us/index.html.

Information about national WNV activity is available from CDC at <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/index.htm>. Maps detailing county-level human, mosquito, veterinary, avian and sentinel data are published each week on the collaborative USGS/CDC West Nile virus Web site: <http://westnilemaps.usgs.gov>.

National Mosquito Control Collaborative Releases Its Final Recommendations

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials' Mosquito Control Collaborative has released its prepublication final recommendations in the report titled "Public Health Confronts the Mosquito: Developing Sustainable State and Local Mosquito Control Programs." The report consists of final recommendations to help states and localities create sustainable mosquito control programs. The report focuses on four areas: planning ahead, involving others, using the best science and data, and informing the public. Each section of the report contains planning and action checklists highlighting the major recommendations.

To view the report, go to www.astho.org/?template=mosquito_control.html.

California Farm Bureau Federation Issues Alert: Horses Need West Nile Virus Protection

By Kate Campbell, Assistant Editor for Ag Alert, California Farm Bureau Federation

There's a lot of misinformation about West Nile virus on the Internet and probably nobody knows this better than Placer County veterinarian Greg Fellers.

A large-animal vet for more than 30 years—and a member of the Placer County West Nile Virus Task Force—Fellers said last year some California horse owners chose not to vaccinate their animals because of "frightening misinformation about abortions, foal deformities and birth defects."

He also is well aware that last year in California 536 horses were infected with the virus and that nearly half of them died or were euthanized. Of that total, nearly all the infected horses were unvaccinated or improperly vaccinated.



The outlook for the virus to be spread by mosquitoes to a greater number of horses this year is even more likely. Fellers said the need to vaccinate all of the state's 750,000 to 1 million head of horses is urgent.

At Loomis Basin Large Animal Services, which Fellers co-founded and now serves as a consulting veterinarian, at least 50 horses were treated for West Nile virus infection during 2004. Loomis Basin's practice covers a four-county area.

Two of the infected horses treated last fall were broodmares in foal.

"The horse owner, who has a breeding operation, read on the Internet that vaccination for West Nile virus caused birth defects and decided not to protect her mares," Fellers said. "We were able to save the mares and the pregnancies, but the costs were significant—\$1,000 a day for each horse for about five days in intensive care and then a series of follow-up visits that added more expense.

Fellers points to a recent study reported in the Dec. 15 issue of the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association that confirms West Nile virus vaccination does not adversely affect pregnancy outcome in horses, regardless of gestational stage. Although the spread of West Nile virus throughout California in 2004 was widely expected, state health experts warn that this year the infection will hit the state much harder.

State Veterinarian Richard Breitmeyer said, "We continue to urge horse owners to vaccinate against West Nile virus. A very high percentage of the horses that have died from the disease were not vaccinated. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention predicted that California would be the epicenter for the disease in 2004, and they were right. Now they're expecting it to intensify in 2005."

The complete California Farm Bureau Federation alert is available at www.cfbf.com/agalert/AgAlertStory.cfm?ID=219&ck=C0E190D8267E36708F955D7AB048990D.

American Association of Equine Practitioners Releases West Nile Vaccination Recommendations

The Vaccinations Task Force of the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) has issued guidelines for administration of the West Nile virus vaccine. The recommended WNV guidelines are intended as a supplement to the AAEP's Guidelines for Vaccination of Horses, released in January, 2001. The recommendations for the use of the vaccine are based on a horse's age, type, and activity level.

To view the recommendations, go to www.aaep.org/pdfs/AAEP_WNV_Guidelines_2005.pdf.



Research

*Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Emerging Infectious Diseases,
Volume 11, Number 2 – February Issue*

Novel Flavivirus or New Lineage of West Nile Virus, Central Europe. T. Bakonyi et al.
<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/EID/vol11no02/04-1028.htm>

West Nile Virus in Morocco, 2003. I. Schuffenecker et al.
<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/EID/vol11no02/04-0817.htm>

Community Comments

Let us hear your comments on this newsletter, your needs, or things you would like to see, by sending them to Maryanne Guichard, 360.236.3391 or maryanne.guichard@doh.wa.gov

WNV Web Resources

Washington State Department of Health www.doh.wa.gov/wnv
Center for Disease Control and Prevention <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/>
Washington State University Cooperative Extension <http://wnv.wsu.edu/>
Washington State Department of Agriculture
<http://agr.wa.gov/FoodAnimal/AnimalHealth/Diseases/WestNileVirus/default.htm>

Article Submission

We are interested in receiving articles for future publications of the WNV Newsletter. Please submit articles to Ben Hamilton, benjamin.hamilton@doh.wa.gov.

DOH Contact List for West Nile Virus

General Public Toll-Free Information Line 1.866.78VIRUS

Publications: Brochures/Response Plan/Fact Sheets

Laura Harper, 360.236.3380, or laura.harper@doh.wa.gov.

Surveillance: Mosquito

Jo Marie Brauner, 360.236.3064, or jomarie.brauner@doh.wa.gov.

Animal Surveillance: Dead bird and horse surveillance, case reporting, and laboratory assistance, as well as general WNV response

Tom Gibbs, 360.236.3060, or tom.gibbs@doh.wa.gov.

Aquatic Mosquito Control National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)

General Permit: Training, technical assistance

Ben Hamilton, 360.236.3364, or benjamin.hamilton@doh.wa.gov.



WNV in Humans: Clinical information, case reporting, and laboratory testing

Call your local health jurisdiction or DOH Communicable Disease Epidemiology,
(206) 418-5500 or (877) 539-4344.

Assistance with news releases and media response

Donn Moyer, 360.236.4076, or donn.moyer@doh.wa.gov.

Tim Church, 360.236.4077, or tim.church@doh.wa.gov.

WNV Program Management

Maryanne Guichard, 360.236.3391, or maryanne.guichard@doh.wa.gov.

WNV Coordinator

Leslie Spangler, 360.236.3369, or leslie.spangler@doh.wa.gov.

To subscribe to this newsletter

Cyndi Free, 360-236-3384, or cyndi.free@doh.wa.gov.

